



**State of New
Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

March 2015

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

New State Assessments Web Page

The National PTA has developed a new State Assessments webpage dedicated to helping inform parents about the new assessments aligned to college- and career-ready standards. The webpage includes fact sheets, videos, assessment guides, and a look at what is happening in every state. Here are highlights of what you'll find on the new webpage:

- The fact sheet is a quick guide to why we have assessments and how they are improving. It also includes a section on what to expect on your child's test scores this spring.
- An Academic Checkup (video): The U.S. Chamber of Commerce put together this video to show how assessments are like "academic checkups" for students.

Check out these resources and many more at <http://www.pta.org/Assessments>.

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Alternative Education

The New Hampshire Dropout Prevention and Recovery Oversight Council is currently seeking proposals from all interested applicants (school districts, community-based organizations, postsecondary institutions, faith-based organizations, agency collaboratives, etc.) to increase graduation rates by providing alternative education options to increase current capacity to students at-risk of dropping out that are between the ages of 16 to 21 and enrolled in secondary education and implement strategies and/or programs to serve underclassmen entering or enrolled in secondary education to achieve their graduation requirements. This Request for Proposal is released in anticipation of NH Legislature funding approval in Spring, 2015 for FY16 and FY17. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals is 4:00 p.m., April 1, 2015.

Contact: Art Ellison, (603) 271-6698, Arthur.Ellison@doe.nh.gov

B. Data Use Trainer

The NH Department of Education is seeking individuals to assist with data analysis and training. Over the past several years, the Department and local education agencies (LEAs) have developed extensive tools and resources to enable educators to leverage data to inform instruction. These trainer(s) will assist school and district staff in understanding how to use the data. These individuals must understand education data, student outcomes and be knowledgeable about educator evaluation processes. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2015.

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker, (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

C. Independent Organization for Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance

The NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is seeking proposals to provide the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education with the

services of an independent organization that is nationally recognized in program evaluation and quality assurance to conduct, in accordance with RSA 186-C:5 (IX), an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program approval and monitoring systems, to ensure activities in RSA 186-C:5 are carried out in an efficient manner. Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 27, 2014

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-3791, Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

HEARINGS

Ed 506.09 (School Nurse)

A public hearing will be held April 22, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. Deadline for written comment will be May 6, 2015.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Data Analysis Workshop: Focus on Classrooms

This free workshop taking place May 28, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Plymouth State University in Concord is recommended for teacher pairs: one language teacher and one content teacher. Participants will be introduced to a data analysis process and will apply this process to their own classroom data. This workshop is designed for teachers who want to gain more experience analyzing data for classroom decision-making from a language lens. Participants will be able to: Describe the connection between the WIDA Standards Framework and classroom data; Identify patterns and trends from various data sets (i.e., unit/lesson plans and related materials, student work, and grade book); and Synthesize key findings from data to formulate hypotheses within the scope of classroom practices. To register or for more information go to <http://goo.gl/wRUjVc>.

Contact: Andrea Somoza-Norton, (603) 271-2034, Andrea.Somoza-Norton@doe.nh.gov

B. Girls Technology Day

On Wednesday, March 18th and Thursday, March 19th, the NH Department of Education will proudly co-sponsor the third annual Girls Technology Day, in partnership with the NH Community College System. The events will be held at NHTI, Concord's Community College, and Manchester Community College, respectively. This is the first year that there will be two events in response to the demand for more students to be able to attend. The event will focus on freshmen and sophomore students because that is the age when many students begin focusing on interests that ultimately may become career paths. In New Hampshire, as in other states, there is a severe shortage of women pursuing technical careers. The Girls Technology Day team is changing this by getting young women interested and invested in the technical fields early in their high school careers. The students will break up into a series of hands-on workshops exploring various high technology topics. During their lunch break, students will also have the opportunity to attend a technology exhibition, where they can learn about college options, see more technology at work, and even learn about

signing up for internships. To register or for more information go to sites.google.com/site/gtd2015nh.

Contact: Jennifer Kiley, (603) 573-0600, Jennifer.Kiley@doe.nh.gov

C. Leading the Way: Educating Creative & Entrepreneurial Students

Register now for the April 3, 2015, NHASCD Conference with Dr. Yong Zhao. Dr. Zhao will share his research-based perspectives on education reform efforts and strategies around the globe: what's right, what's wrong, and what specific models are the most relevant, helpful, and engaging. This conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. To register or for more information go to <http://nhascd.net/>.

D. Next Steps Cohort Three Application

The Bureau of Special Education is pleased to announce the posting of the application for Cohort 3 Next Steps NH High School Pilot Sites. The Next Steps NH project provides the selected applicants professional development and coaching to implement evidenced-based transition practices for the purpose of increasing the number of students with disabilities and students at risk of dropping out who are college and career ready in New Hampshire. Some of the practices will involve family engagement strategies and increasing the use of Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs). In addition, pilot sites will also have the option of implementing Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural supports, Education, and Work (RENEW). To help guide school districts through the application process, there will be informational webinars available. Application Due Date: March 27, 2015. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/nextstepsnh.htm.

Contact: Amy Aiello, (603) 271-1536, Amy.Aiello@doe.nh.gov

E. 2015 New Hampshire Educators' Summer Summit August 5-7 – save the date

More information to follow.

Contact: Mary Earick, (603) 271-6052, Mary.Earick@doe.nh.gov

RESOURCES

A. Curriculums

The Army of Saints offers 100% free school curriculums their volunteer group of teachers created and will e-mail them directly to teachers who want them. They fit inside 45-60 minute blocks, including for Phys. Ed and Health, that are integrated in daily class time and used to prevent drugs, violence, bullying, and offer public health, career-readiness and capacity-building for at-risk youth. For more information go to www.armyofsaints.org.

OTHER

Doris Barnes Retired Educator Lifetime Achievement Award

Applications are now being accepted for the Doris Barnes Retired Educator Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was created to honor a retired teacher or teachers who have continued to work with youth and the betterment of public education after his/her retirement as has the person for whom it is named. A nominee must be retired after spending a

minimum of 20 years as a full time educator. It is also expected that the nominee can describe how they have stayed involved working with youth or on other vital issues related to education since retirement. A “Nominee Information Sheet” can be found at www.edies.org.

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

The PAEMST program is pleased to announce that the 2014-2015 application period for 7-12 grade mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers is now open. Please consider nominating a talented teacher or applying yourself. PAEMST is the highest honor the United States government bestows for K–12 mathematics and science teaching, honoring up to 108 teachers each year. Presidential awardees receive a certificate signed by the President, a trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The nomination deadline is April 1, and the application deadline is May 1. For more information or to nominate a teacher go to www.education.nh.gov/recognition/math_science.htm.

Contact: Jiffi Rainie, (603) 271-7450, Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov

GRAMMY Music Educator Award

Jared Cassedy of Windham High School in Windham, NH, has been announced as the recipient of the 2015 Music Educator Award presented by The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation. Nominations for the 2016 Music Educator Award are now open. For more information go to <http://www.grammyintheschools.com/programs/grammy-music-educator-award>. The nomination deadline is March 15, 2015.

2015 Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching

MoMath is pleased to announce that the application period is now open for the 2015 Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching. Designed to recognize and promote hands-on math teaching in upper elementary and middle school classrooms, the Rosenthal Prize carries a cash award of \$25,000 for the single best activity, plus (new this year) up to five additional \$1,000 awards for other innovative activities. The winning teacher(s) will have the opportunity to share their innovative activities with educators across the country. Learn more about the prize and how to apply at rosenthalprize.momath.org. Applications are being accepted through Tuesday, May 19.

Young Scholars Program Seeks Applicants

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is seeking applicants for its Young Scholars Program. The Foundation is looking for 7th graders from low- to moderate-income families who distinguish themselves with high academic achievement, persistence, and desire to help others. Students will be selected and paired with an educational adviser who will work to ensure that scholars are academically challenged and inspired, have the financial resources to develop their talents, and are prepared for success at competitive colleges and universities, according to the program. The application deadline is April 14. To learn more, visit the Foundation's Web site at <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/young-scholars/>.

Cave Light Scholarship

Monadnock International Film Festival has created a \$1000 Scholarship for NH High School Students. Work will be judged based primarily on quality of story, but overall production, use of lighting and audio, editing techniques, composition of shot, directing skills, and

performances will be factored in. In addition to the \$1000 cash prize, the film will be screened in the Local Look Shorts Program at MONIFF, be viewable on the festival website, and be shared on festival social media pages. For more information go to <http://www.moniff.org/cave-light-scholarship-high-school-short-film-contest.html>.

Six Scholarships To Be Awarded To Graduating Seniors Pursuing a STEM Education

Unitil, a local provider of natural gas and electricity, is now accepting applications from graduating high school seniors pursuing an undergraduate degree in STEM subject areas—science, technology, engineering, and math. Applications must be received on or before March 14th, and recipients will be notified by April 30th. Scholarships will be awarded to students within its service territories in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. Students who live and attend high school in one of Unitil's service territories, who will also be pursuing a bachelor's degree in a STEM subject area, are encouraged to apply for this scholarship opportunity. To learn more and to apply go to www.unitil.com/scholarship.

NH High School Short Film Festival

The New Hampshire Film & Television Office, part of the Department of Cultural Resources, will once again present the New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival, which will take place on May 23, 2015 at Red River Theatres in Concord. Students from NH public and private high schools, as well as homeschooled students, are encouraged to submit projects no longer than 7 minutes in length, which do not have to be created as part of a class assignment. The submission period runs from February 1-March 31. More details are available at www.nhstudentfilm.com. Media arts faculty interested in receiving updates about the Festival via e-mail should contact film@nh.gov.

State Arts Council's Grants

The N.H. State Council on the Arts is pleased to announce that, for the first time, applicants to its grant programs may submit their applications through an online grant process.

a) 2015-2016 Artist Residency in Schools Grant

The N.H. State Council on the Arts offers academic year 2015-2016 Artist Residency in School (AIR) grants to support quality arts learning experiences and develop creative skills. Maximum Grant Request: \$1,000 - \$4,500. Postmark deadline is Friday, April 10, 2015 for projects taking place between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The AIR grant provides matching funds to bring juried teaching artists, from a variety of disciplines, into public schools and alternative education sites in support of creative learning, career and skills development in the arts.

b) 2015-2016 Youth Arts Project Grant

The N.H. State Council on the Arts offers a Youth Arts Project Grant (YAP) for Creative Youth Development for academic year 2015-2016 for after school and out of school arts projects. Maximum Grant Request: \$1,000 - \$4,500. Postmark deadline is Friday, April 17, 2015 for projects taking place August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. YAP grants provide matching funds for high-quality arts and cultural education programs that encourage creativity, develop new art skills, foster academic success and healthy youth development for young people (K-12). Visit the State Arts Council's juried roster of teaching artists at www.nh.gov/nharts (click on Artists).

A Bridge to Composites

This workshop is designed for high school teachers who want to bring composites technology into their classrooms. No prior knowledge of advanced technology required. Attendees will develop skill in using carbon fiber pre-preg materials to build high-strength, lightweight composites parts for building a prototype model bridge with their high school students in any STEM class. It is taking place March 19th and 20th at the Advanced Technology Center campus in Rochester. For more information and to register call Carol Lanoue at (603) 427-7780.

The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching

The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching brings together hard-working classroom teachers and highly skilled poet/teachers to share time-tested approaches to making poetry an essential element of the classroom. Both graduate and continuing education credit are available. The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching is not composed of stand-alone classes. The approach is sequential; each day's session links to the next. The conference is taking place June 21 – 25, 2015.

- **The Frost Place Teachers As Writers Workshop**

The Frost Place Teachers As Writers Workshop directly follows the Conference on Poetry and Teaching. This workshop is day-and-a-half session for classroom teachers who want to focus on their own writing and revision practices. The workshop is limited to participants who have already attended the Conference on Poetry and Teaching.

To apply or for more information go to <http://frostplace.org/cpt/>. The deadline to apply is May 31st.

The Journey from "Welcome Home" to Now

This one-day course teaches professionals who support military-connected children and youth the challenges and joys that children face during a time of reintegration following a family member's return after an extended absence. Participants will learn strategies to help students adjust during the reunion, and during the journey of reconnecting and reestablishing family routine. There is no charge for this event. Participants may apply for Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credit up to .6 CEU (6 clock hours = .6 CEU) upon completion of training. The fee for the CEU credit is \$25.00, payable upon completion of training. To register or for more information go to

https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=MCEC&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=50e7f693-01b8-4a71-93cd-57a9a3d52a6f.

SERESC

- Registration is open for the **First Annual Early Literacy Conference**. SERESC, and Co-Sponsors: Keys to Literacy, Wilson Language Training, and the Grimes Institute are planning for this new, comprehensive event that meets the needs of early childhood providers, and engages attendees in future development and participation. For more information go to <https://www.smores.com/fxfh2>.
- The popular and always well-attended Annual **Adolescent Literacy Conference**, now in its Fourth Year, will be held on June 3, 2015. Questions about SERESC PD events may be sent to sabrina@seresc.net

S.E.T.T. School Emergency Triage Training

This training will be held on March 26, 2015 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon. The goal of SETT is to provide school nurses with the knowledge, skills, and resources to perform as leaders of First-Aid teams in response to mass casualty events occurring in schools. The course will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m. For more information contact joan.r.devine@hitchcock.org.

Safe Kids 500

The eleventh annual Safe Kids 500 will take place at the NH Motor Speedway from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on May 6, 2015. Your family can bike on the same track driven by your favorite NASCAR stars. There will also be free bike and helmet safety checks, healthy snacks, and educational handouts. For information, please contact Safe Kids New Hampshire at (877) 783-0432 or IPC@Dartmouth.edu.

Laptops for Seniors

The Childhood Cancer Lifeline is currently seeking seniors who are childhood cancer survivors. In an effort to insure that all students who have experienced childhood cancer are recognized, we ask that you please assist us in passing along this information to the student and parents. New laptops are provided to students who have not recently received one from CCL at a celebration held in May. If you have a student or students who are survivors, please have the student or their parent contact CCL at info@childhoodcancerlifeline.org or via phone at 645-1489.

Barry Conservation 4-H Camps

Registration is underway for summer youth programs at Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, N.H. The camp offers weekly, overnight summer camp programs for boys and girls, age 8-16. Barry Camp is operated by UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Kids who enjoy hands-on learning about outdoor skills and the environment will love Barry Camp. New this year is a specialty week for youth interested in learning more about careers as a Fish and Game Conservation Officer. To register or for more information go to <http://extension.unh.edu/4H/4HCamps.htm>, or e-mail 4Hcamps@unh.edu or call 603-788-4961.

Discover WILD New Hampshire Day

Discover WILD New Hampshire Day is a fun way for the whole family to explore New Hampshire's wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions. Come browse exhibits from environmental and conservation organizations throughout the state. See live animals, big fish and trained falcons. Try your hand at archery, casting, fly-tying and B-B gun shooting. Watch retriever dogs in action. Get creative with hands-on craft activities for the kids. N.H. Department of Environmental Services staff will be on hand to help you discover new trends in recycling, environmental protection and energy-efficient hybrid vehicles. This event is set for Saturday, April 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Fish and Game Department at 11 Hazen Drive in Concord, N.H. Watch for more details about Discover WILD New Hampshire Day at <http://www.wildnh.com>.